

Message Text

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14
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PO,
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT ON MILITARY ABUSES RELEASED

REF: LISBON 8228 (DTG 261828Z NOV 76)

SUMMARY: THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION INVESTIGATING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES COMMITTED AGAINST THOSE HELD BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES DURING THE GONCALVIST PERIOD PUTS THE FINGER SQUARELY ON THE COMMUNISTS AND THE ULTRA-LEFT UDP. RELEASE OF THE REPORT UNDERSCORES PRESIDENT EANES NOV 25 PLEDGE TO RID THE ARMED FORCES OF THOSE WHO SERVE PARTISAN INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.
(BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

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1. THE COMMISSION NAMED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR TO

INVESTIGATE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF THOSE HELD BY
MILITARY AUTHORITIES DURING THE 1974-1975 GONCALVIST PERIOD
MADE PUBLIC ITS REPORT ON DEC 2. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:
-- MOST ILLEGAL ARRESTS WERE MADE BY THE
CONTINENTAL ARMY COMMAND (COPCON), OFTEN USING BLANK ARREST
ORDERS WHICH DID NOT SPECIFY THE CHARGES BEING BROUGHT
AGAINST THE ACCUSED.
-- SOME OF THE HUNDREDS OF ARBITRARY ARRESTS WERE BASED UPON
ANONYMOUS DENUNCIATIONS; OTHERS ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
PARTISAN ORGANIZATIONS (READ PCP). MANY RESULTED FROM VERBAL
REQUESTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THEN PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES,
THE LABOR MINISTRY, THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE SDCI,
OR THE OFFICE OF ADM ROSA COUTINHO.
-- CASES OF MENTAL AND PHYSICAL TORTURE WERE VERIFIED; BOTH
MILITARY MEN AND CIVILIANS WERE IMPLICATED.
-- THE GREATEST EXCESSES WERE COMMITTED AT THE LISBON
GARRISONS OF THE LIGHT ARTILLERY REGIMENT (RALIS) AND THE
MILITARY POLICE.
-- CIVILIANS, AT TIMES ARMED AND BELONGING TO PARTISAN
ORGANIZATIONS (PCP AND UDP), OFTEN PARTICIPATED IN THE
ARRESTS.
TEXT OF THE REPORT WILL BE POUCHED.

2. EANES KEEPS HIS WORD: THE PRESIDENCY SIMULTANEOUSLY
ISSUED A STATEMENT CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE PROSECUTION OF
THOSE IMPLICATED BY THE REPORT. THE STATEMENT NOTED THAT THE
ABUSES SHOULD GIVE THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE CAUSE TO REFLECT
ON THE DANGERS IMPLICIT IN TOTALITARIAN CONDUCT.

3. COMMENT: (BEGIN LOU) THE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO
PRESIDENT EANES IN MID-AUGUST. ITS RELEASE AT THIS TIME
CARRIES SEVERAL MESSAGES:
-- IT UNDERSCORES THE NOV 25 PLEDGE BY PRESIDENT EANES
TO FORCE OUT OF THE ARMED FORCES THOSE MILITARY MEN WHO
SERVE PARTISAN INTERESTS (REFTEL).
-- BY GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF MOTION, IT MAY SERVE TO TAKE
SOME OF THE HEAT OFF AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE COME UNDER
INCREASING FIRE FOR ALLEGED INACTION IN THE FACE OF
CONTINUED TERRORISM.
-- IT PUTS THE FINGER SQUARELY ON BOTH THE COMMUNISTS AND THE
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UDP-LED "POPULAR POWER" FORCES AS PRIME MOVERS BEHIND THE
CATALOG OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. WITH LOCAL ELECTIONS
LESS THAN TEN DAYS AWAY, THE REPORT IS A POINTED REMINDER OF
THE DANGERS POSED BY BOTH THESE NON-DEMOCRATIC PARTIES.
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